

NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. JOSEPH B. HOLDER, one of the Founders of the A. O. U., died suddenly of apoplexy, Feb. 28, 1888, at his residence in New York City, at the age of sixty-four years. Dr. Holder was born in Lynn, Mass., and was a graduate of the Harvard Medical School. In 1846 he published a 'Catalogue of the Birds Noticed in the Vicinity of Lynn, Mass., during the years 1844-'5-'6,' the paper forming 'No. 1' of the 'Publications of the Lynn Natural History Society.' During subsequent years he published occasional observations on birds. His last formal ornithological paper, on 'The Flight of Birds,' was read before the New York Academy of Sciences, Dec. 19, 1887, and is now in press in the 'Transactions' of the Academy. Dr. Holder was more especially interested in invertebrate zoölogy. Through the influence of Professors Agassiz and Baird, he was appointed, in 1859, a surgeon in the United States Army, and assigned to duty at the Dry Tortugas, where he spent several years making, in addition to performing his official duties, valuable collections and observations in natural history. During the War of the Rebellion he was assigned to staff duty, and held important positions. In 1870 he became connected with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, and from this date till 1885 was the chief assistant in charge of the collections, those of geology and conchology excepted. His charge thus not only included the large collections of mammals and birds, which he arranged and cared for, but also the fishes, reptiles, insects, and invertebrates generally. He remained in charge of these collections, mammals and birds excepted, until his death. He was a frequent contributor of popular articles on natural history to various magazines and papers, and published a number of original papers on his special subjects of study. His death will be a severe loss to the Museum with which he was so long connected, and will be deeply felt by the wide circle of friends to whom he had endeared himself by his genial qualities of heart and mind. He leaves a widow and son, the latter, Mr. C. F. Holder, a well-known popular writer of works on natural history.

PROFESSOR CHARLES LINDEN, of Buffalo, N. Y., an Associate Member of the A. O. U., died at Buffalo, Feb. 3, 1888, at the age of fifty-six years. For many years Professor Linden was employed as Custodian of the Buffalo Society of Natural History, and as a teacher of natural history in the High School of that city, where he organized the 'Field Club,' of which he was the leader. Born in Breslau, Germany, where he was educated, he came in early life to this country, and for a time was "a sailor on the lakes." He was an ardent lover of nature, and his zeal as a teacher and explorer inspired in his pupils a kindred enthusiasm. During his vacations he made numerous protracted collecting expeditions, visiting the Everglades of Florida, the West Indies, Brazil, and Labrador, making repeated trips to the Chaleur Bay Region, mainly in the interest of the Buffalo Society of Natural History, whose collections he greatly enriched.

He was a frequent contributor to various natural history journals, and published in 'Forest and Stream' an extended account of his varied experiences in the Florida Everglades. His exposures during this expedition resulted in an illness from which he seems never to have fully recovered, and which eventually resulted in his death in an insane asylum. He was an indefatigable worker, a noble-hearted, genial companion, tenderly loved by his pupils and associates. A large part of his Brazilian collection of birds, made principally at Santarem, is in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy at Cambridge, Mass.; an account of it was published in the 'Bulletin' of the Essex Institute (Vol. VIII, 1876, pp. 78-83).

A JOINT meeting of the various Audubon Monument Committees of New York City was held Feb. 2, at the University of New York. Professor Thomas Egleston, Chairman of the New York Academy of Sciences Committee, presented a draft of a design which was adopted by the joint meeting, and reports of progress were made by each of the five committees represented. The monument will be in the form of a Runic cross, about fifteen feet in height, surmounting a pedestal eight feet high. The bas-reliefs will include a medallion of Audubon, figures of various birds, mammals, and plants, with inscriptions. A cut of the design adopted was ordered, for use in connection with circulars to be issued by the committees in the appeal for funds. The cost of the monument is estimated at \$10,000. Considerable money has already come to hand—enough to indicate that when the plans can be definitely announced, and the object contemplated can be fairly set forth, the amount desired will be secured.

Mr. William Dutcher (51 Liberty St., New York City), Treasurer of the A. O. U. Audubon Monument Committee, reports the following contributions as all thus far (to March 20), received by the A. O. U. Committee namely: Bradford Torrey, \$5.00; L. O. Pindar, \$2.50; E. S. Holmes, \$1.00;—total, \$8.50! This is indeed a small beginning! The A. O. U. Committee will immediately issue an appeal for contributions, which will be sent to each member of the A. O. U. The responses, it is hoped, will be prompt, and creditable to the ornithologists of the country, who, above all others, should aid liberally this praiseworthy attempt at a proper recognition of Audubon and his scientific work.

Perhaps it should be added that the above record does not fully represent the contributions of ornithologists to this fund, several having sent considerable sums to the Treasurer of the New York Academy Committee.

IN ISSUING the January number of the 'The Auk' it was found, at the last moment, impossible to publish with it the 'By-Laws and Rules' and 'List of Members,' as announced on page 97 and in the 'contents,' owing to unexpected delay in the printing, without unduly delaying the publication of the number. They are therefore sent out with the present number, separately paged (pp. ix-xxviii), to follow the title-page and 'contents' of the volume in binding. In the meantime the 'By-Laws and Rules,' etc., have been published separately as a pamphlet and sent to all the members of the A. O. U.

THE TREASURER of the A. O. U. desires to express his thanks to the members of the Union for their prompt response in the matter of payment of dues. Of the 47 Active Members and 170 Associate Members, eighty-seven per cent have paid their assessment for the current year. Resignations and deaths have reduced the membership list three per cent, leaving ten per cent of the members still to be heard from.

In this connection the Treasurer would call the attention of Active and Associate Members to the desirability of increasing the subscription list of 'The Auk.' At present the journal is about on a paying basis, but were its circulation increased the magazine could be enlarged and otherwise improved. It is to be hoped that each member of the Union will endeavor to secure immediately as many new subscribers as possible from among his ornithological friends who are not as yet readers of this journal.

THE PATRONS of 'The Auk' will be interested to learn that the publication of a series of papers by Capt. Charles E. Bendire, U. S. A., on the nesting habits of some of our least known North American birds, will begin in the July number. The first paper will treat at considerable length and in a popular way of the nesting habits of the Woodpeckers of the genus *Sphyrapicus*, concerning several of the species of which group very little has hitherto been published. Captain Bendire's long experience in the field, his unequalled resources in the way of material, and his well known accuracy as an observer, will render his papers exceptionally authoritative and interesting.

AN ORNITHOLOGICAL society has been founded, at New Haven, Conn., under the name 'New Haven Ornithological Club.' Its officers are L. B. Bishop, President; H. H. Flint, Vice-President; C. C. Trowbridge, Treasurer; Robert D. Camp, Secretary. The Secretary's address is P. O. Box 726, Stamford, Conn. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. The Club is in a flourishing condition, and it has our cordial wishes for continued success.

AT THE annual meeting of the Linnæan Society of New York, held March 9, the following officers were elected: President, George B. Sennett; Vice-President, Frank M. Chapman; Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, Newbold T. Lawrence; Recording Secretary, Jonathan Dwight, Jr. The Linnæan Society has of late come to be practically an ornithological Society, all of its most active members being ornithologists, and ornithological subjects largely predominating at its meetings. At the last meeting the principal paper was by Mr. William Dutcher, on rare Long Island birds, and is published in the present number of 'The Auk.'

THE American Museum of Natural History of New York City has recently received from Dr. Edgar A. Mearns, U. S. A., two large cases of bird skins from Arizona. The collection numbers over 2,000 beautifully prepared specimens, including a very fine series of the Birds of Pr y

of that Territory. The Museum has also just added by purchase a collection of 400 bird skins collected by Dr. H. H. Rusby in Eastern Bolivia. This small gathering is especially interesting, as it comes from a little known region, more than one-half of the species represented proving new to the Museum's previously rich collection of South American birds. The Museum is also fortunate in securing, as an Assistant in the Department of Ornithology, Mr. Frank M. Chapman, who has recently returned from a winter's sojourn in Florida to enter upon his new duties.

From the recently published 'Annual Report' of the Museum for the year 1887, we learn that the number of bird skins now in the Museum is about 39,000, of which 13,000 are mounted. It appears that over 21,000 specimens were added during the last year. Including Mr. George B. Sennett's collection, the total number of specimens of birds available for study at the Museum is fully 45,000. The collection of nests and eggs is proportionately large.

THE SUBJECT of the voluntary interlocking of the primaries in soaring birds (see Jan. Auk, pp. 126, 127) came up again for discussion at the meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences, held Jan. 9 last, and formed the special topic of the evening. The discussion was opened by a paper by Mr. J. A. Allen, entitled 'On the Flight of Birds, with special reference to recent alleged discoveries in the Mechanism of the Wing,' in which he answered certain criticisms made at the previous meeting of the Academy, reflecting on the motives and animus of the ornithologists, and then took up the structure of birds in relation to flight, describing at some length the bones and muscles involved, and the arrangement and structure of the feathers. The alleged "new muscles" were shown to have been well known for over a century, and by means of a freshly-killed *Buteo borealis* it was demonstrated that the tips of the primaries, when the wing is fully extended, as in soaring, do not even touch each other, but are separated by a considerable space, and that consequently overlapping at the tip, or 'interlocking,' is simply impossible. It was shown that the wing must be partly closed before the tips of the primaries can be brought near enough to overlap, and that if they should overlap—which they can do only in the partly closed state of the wing—they would fail entirely to aid in relieving muscular strain in keeping the wing distended. In short, it was shown that the 'interlocking' claimed was not only an impossibility, but was wholly unnecessary as a provision for relieving muscular tension in flight. Yet the advocate of the new discovery refused to be convinced, and stated that if any one expected him to 'back down' they would find themselves 'mistaken in their man,' or words emphatically to this effect. Those interested in the original paper and in the discussion which followed it will find the subject quite fully reported in the Academy's 'Transactions' (Vol. VII, giving reports of the meetings for November and December, 1887, and January, 1888).

MR. MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN, in the preface to his 'A Systematic Table of Canadian Birds,' announces that his "promised 'Bibliography of Canadian Ornithology' is well under way, and will probably be published during the coming summer." Its appearance will certainly be awaited with interest.

AMONG recent additions to the list of periodicals of an ornithological character are the 'Oölogist's Exchange,' a 4-page monthly, published at Austen, Ill., by T. Vernon Wilson; 'The Bay State Oölogist,' also a 4-page monthly, "devoted exclusively to students of birds, their nests and eggs" (*sic*), published at Pittsfield, Mass., by W. H. Foote; and 'The Collector's Illustrated Magazine,' a monthly 16-page octavo, "devoted to the interests of collectors in all branches," edited and published by E. M. Haight, of Riverside, Cal. The first number of each is dated January, 1888. The two numbers which have reached us of the first-named consist mainly of selections from various sources; those of the other two contain original articles and notes as well as selections. Some of the original notes are of considerable interest. If the editors or publishers of these and the many other journals of a somewhat similar character now issued in various parts of the country will kindly send their respective journals regularly to the editor of 'The Auk,' he will see that the original articles on birds are duly noted, from time to time, in 'The Auk,' under the head of 'Minor Ornithological Publications,' in the department of 'Recent Literature.'

JUST at present Mexico seems to be a favorite field for ornithological research. As the readers of the 'The Auk' are well aware, Mr. William Brewster has had several collectors at work during the past year in Lower California and Western Mexico, one of whom is still in the field. Mr. F. DuCane Godman is also giving special attention to ornithology in connection with other departments of Mexican biology, he having recently placed in the field in the southeastern and other portions of the Republic, several collectors, including Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Smith, Mr. F. B. Armstrong, and Mr. William Lloyd, the latter well known for his ornithological work in Texas. Mr. George B. Sennett is also extending his work beyond the Texan border, he having sent two collectors, Messrs. Priour and Grover, into northeastern Mexico, to explore the States of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon. The combined results of this activity cannot fail to soon make the ornithology of many portions of Mexico comparatively well known.